



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS  
2 NAVY ANNEX  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20370-5100

JRE  
Docket No: 1233-00  
14 November 2000

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of title 10 of the United States Code, section 1552.

A three-member panel of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 9 November 2000. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures applicable to the proceedings of this Board. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application, together with all material submitted in support thereof, your naval record and applicable statutes, regulations and policies.

After careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board found that the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

The Board found that you were discharged from the Navy on 31 March 1988, by reason of physical disability, with entitlement to disability severance pay. On 20 May 1988, the Veterans Administration awarded you a 10% rating for mechanical low back pain. The rating was increased to 20% from 19 March 1990, and 40% from 13 March 1996.

The Board noted that although the VA may raise or lower a veteran's disability rating throughout his life time, as the severity of the rated conditions changes, ratings assigned by the Navy are fixed as of the date of separation or permanent retirement. The increase in your disability rating which took effect in 1996 does not demonstrate that you were entitled to a rating of 40% or higher in 1988, when you were discharged. Accordingly, your application has been denied. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request.

It is regretted that the circumstances of your case are such that favorable action cannot be taken. You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new

and material evidence or other matter not previously considered by the Board. In this regard, it is important to keep in mind that a presumption of regularity attaches to all official records. Consequently, when applying for a correction of an official naval record, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice.

Sincerely,

W. DEAN PFEIFFER  
Executive Director